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THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY.



REV. JOSEPH AUGUSTUS SEISS, D.D., LL.D., L.H.D.

The
Pennsylvania-German
Society

PROCEEDINGS AND ADDRESSES

AT

NORRISTOWN, OCT. 3, 1902

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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY

AT ITS

TWELFTH ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT NORRISTOWN, PA.

ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1902.

THE Executive Committee of the Society held its usual quarterly meeting, in the Trustees' Room of the Y. M. C. A. Building, 406 De Kalb Street, at 8.00 P. M. on Thursday evening, October 2, for the transaction of its regular business.

MORNING SESSION.

The Twelfth Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania-German Society, was held in the building of the Y. M. C. A. at 406 De Kalb Street, Norristown, Pa., on Friday, October, 3, 1902.

The gathering was called to order by the President, the Rev. Joseph H. Dubbs, D.D., LL.D., of Lancaster, Pa.,

at 9:00 A. M. The Rev. L. Kryder Evans, D.D., of Pottstown, Pa., then offered the opening prayer.

INVOCATION.

Almighty God, Our Father in Heaven. — Thou hast been our dwelling-place in all generations. Our fathers and mothers trusted in Thee, and were never disappointed — and Thou art to us, in Jesus Christ, Thy Son Our Lord, the same yesterday and today and forever. We bless Thee for Thy loving kindness and tender mercy in the years gone. We thank Thee that we are permitted to meet again as members of the Society whose Anniversary we celebrate today. We thank Thee for the piety, Christian integrity and patriotism of our ancestors and for what they contributed in treasure and blood towards making our country so great and prosperous. We thank Thee for the churches, school houses and institutions of learning which adorn the hillsides and valleys and cities of this our Fatherland. We thank Thee for civil and religious liberty — enable us, we pray Thee, to prove worthy of our precious inheritance. Bless this Society; and as we remember the days of old — brilliant with the deeds of our fathers — enable us to emulate their virtues and shun their faults. Establish Thou the work of our hands upon it; yea, the work of our hands establish Thou it. Preserve us from all self-laudation — from all narrowness of thought and bigotry of feeling. Enable us to recognize in every man a brother — Thine own Image and Superscription. Bless, we pray Thee, Thy servants, the President of these United States, the Governor of this Commonwealth, and all in authority. Be Thou the inspirer and guide of our lives. We would commit ourselves and our all to Thee. Send the years as Thou wilt, but do Thou come with

every one of them, and make each a step nearer Our Father's house on high. Forgive us all our sins, and keep us in Thy fear and favor. Give us a deeper love, a firmer faith and a calmer hope. Hear us, O Lord, in these our imperfect petitions, for the sake of Thy dear Son Our Lord, who has taught us to pray: "Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever." Amen.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

Following the invocation, the members of the Society were kindly welcomed to the city of Norristown by Joseph Fornance, Esq., President of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, who said.

Mr. President and Members of the Pennsylvania-German Society:

On behalf of the Historical Society of Montgomery County I have been delegated to greet you, and it is with pleasure that I serve as its spokesman to welcome you to our midst.

It is a happy event for the Pennsylvania-German Society to hold its meeting in Norristown as the guest of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, and we highly appreciate the honor you have conferred on us by coming.

Our Historical Society has maintained its organization for over twenty-one years, and it has done good work. It has awakened here an interest in local historical research. It has collected much valuable historical matter. Many

historical papers concerning this county have been prepared by its members, and a number of them have been published in permanent form by the Society.

We warmly commend similar historical work, and we appreciate the fact that the Pennsylvania-German Society has rendered valuable service in collecting and publishing historical data. We have read its publications with great interest, especially those that relate to this neighborhood. Two of these stand prominent, the History of Germantown by Judge Pennypacker, and the translation of the quaint narrative of Gottlieb Mittelberger, who, one hundred and fifty years ago, was organist at the old Trappe Church that you will visit to-day.

This locality is one of much interest to you as descendants of the German Colonial settlers. Norristown is on the border of a large territory that was settled by German immigrants. The northern half of Montgomery County was settled almost exclusively by Germans. Peaceful and law abiding, frugal and industrious, they contributed largely to the development of the county.

Among them were men of prominence and ability. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, and his son, Gen. Peter Muhlenberg, and other members of the Muhlenberg family, made their impress on the history of the country. Henry Antes, and his patriotic son, Col. Philip Frederick Antes, were leaders in colonial and revolutionary times whose influence extended far beyond this locality.

The merit of those early settlers is shown in their descendants. They are good citizens. Many of them have filled prominent places. A number of them have adorned the learned professions. Of the three governors of Pennsylvania that were born in Montgomery County, two of them, Shunk and Hartranft, were of Pennsylvania-German ancestry.

The foundations of the prosperity of this community in a large degree were established through the lives and labor of your ancestors. It is therefore proper that you should meet here to-day, and commemorate the sterling virtues of those hardy pioneers.

We congratulate you on your work as a Society. We welcome your coming here, and we hope your visit will be pleasant and profitable to you.

RESPONSE TO THE ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

The response to this kindly welcome was made by the Rev. Prof. Jacob Fry, D.D., of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Mt. Airy, Pa.

Mr. President, Gentlemen and Ladies:

It is with great pleasure I rise to respond to the greeting we have just received from the President of the Historical Society of Montgomery county. We assure you we appreciate the honor of being your guests, and of holding our twelfth annual convention in Norristown. There is no fairer county in Pennsylvania than Montgomery, and no fairer inland city than Norristown, and we anticipate much pleasure in gathering here.

Personally I count myself happy in being chosen to respond to your words of welcome, because I belong by virtue of birth to Old Montgomery. While half of my life was spent in Reading in the adjoining county of Berks, and am now a resident of Philadelphia, I was born in the quaint old villiage known as the Trappe, to which the members of this convention intend making a pilgrimage this afternoon. In the old church which Mühlenberg built and beside which he lies buried, I received my early religious instruction, at its altar I knelt in confirmation, and in

its pulpit I preached my first sermon, while a student of theology, on October 3, 1852, exactly fifty years ago to-day.

In your address of welcome you made mention of the fact that a large section of this county was settled by Germans, and you gave them credit for contributing in no small degree to the prosperity which is everywhere apparent within its borders. Along the fertile valley of the Perkiomen, and other regions round about, they settled, built their homes, their school-houses and churches, and here they have remained and many of them have attained eminence and great success. Twenty-five years ago Moses Auge, Esq. of this place published a volume of biographical sketches of men who had become prominent in the history of Montgomery county. It included the names of one hundred and fifty persons, one half of whom were of German blood and descent. In other words, if his list be a fair test, of the men who have attained prominence in the history and development of this county, the Pennsylvania-Germans have furnished as many as all other nationalities combined.

You also stated that the upper half of the county was almost entirely settled by our German ancestors. So, when to-day we reach the boundary line of that upper half, on the ledge of Skippack hill, and look eastward, northward and westward on as fair a landscape as can be found in these United States, we will see what has been accomplished by Pennsylvania-German industry, culture and thrift.

In accepting your kind invitation to hold our annual convention in Norristown, and after listening to your words of welcome, it may be proper to state why we are here, and what are the objects and purposes we have in view. They

are four-fold, and may be styled investigation, publication, correction and association.

Our *investigation* is directed towards discovering whatever may pertain to the history, customs and achievements of our German ancestors who settled so largely in eastern Pennsylvania, and also partly in the adjacent states of New York, New Jersey, Maryland and the valley of Virginia. Hidden away in the closets and garrets of their dwellings, and in the archives of their churches and county-courts are many documents and relics, small and great, which are of intense interest to us who are their descendants, and which ought to be brought to light and known. To investigate and search for these — to gather and arrange them in order, and let them tell their own story is one of the purposes of this Society.

Another is *publication*. There is nothing in the history of our sires of which we need be ashamed. In the vintage our fathers planted there are no fruits which set the children's teeth on edge. We think it is high time the names and doings of our people should be brought from obscurity and rescued from oblivion. To this end the results of our researches and investigations are read at our conventions, and then published for the use of posterity. The volumes thus far produced, in their contents, their elegant illustrations, and the superior manner in which they are printed, are models of their kind, and form a series of books which any library might covet to possess.

Our third purpose is *correction*, *i. e.*, the correction of the many misstatements and omissions with which many so-called histories of our country, and even of our State, abound. History may be pronounced "his-story," and so it often is, and its value depends on the man who wrote it. Some of these "historians" either ignore our people,

or do them great injustice. The Pennsylvania-German Society aims to have this evil corrected by bringing forward the names and achievements of our fathers, and placing them in such light that it will be impossible for any reputable writer hereafter to pervert these facts or to put them aside.

Our fourth purpose is *association* or coöperation and fellowship. "It is not good for man to be alone," and "two are better than one." There is a charm and power in goodly fellowship, especially with those of your own race and kin. We come together from various localities to look each other in the face and become personally acquainted. We meet to compare notes, discuss problems, ascertain facts, and arouse enthusiasm in the work we have undertaken. We find it, therefore, pleasant as well as profitable thus to gather and greet each other in these annual conventions. The occasions and the objects of our association are alike agreeable. Our lines have fallen in pleasant places, and we have a goodly heritage. That heritage we hope to retain, and so we meet to do honor to our fathers and mothers, that our days may be long upon the land which the Lord our God hath given us.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

The annual address of the President, the Rev. Joseph H. Dubbs, D.D., LL.D., of Lancaster, Pa., was then read.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my privilege if not my duty to congratulate the members of the Pennsylvania-German Society on the success which has attended their labors during another year. On this occasion it is not too much to say that we have en-

joyed a season of unusual prosperity. Our numbers have increased, our councils have been harmonious, and we have been faithful to the purpose of our organization. To our series of historical monographs a splendid volume has been added; another, which it is believed will prove no less interesting, is soon to appear. It is therefore with peculiar pleasure that, as retiring President, I embrace the opportunity of bidding you all a cordial welcome to the twelfth annual convention of our Society.

May I venture to add that we derive special satisfaction from the fact that we meet in Norristown, the county-seat of Montgomery county, the *locus classicus* of our early history? In a certain sense most of us are strangers here, and yet there is another sense in which we feel at home. As Pennsylvania-Germans we have a pleasant sense of meeting where we ought to meet; we feel assured that our assembly will result in strengthening ties which are none the less real because they have not been generally recognized; that we will come to appreciate more than ever that we are partakers in a common heritage. Need I remind you that it was in this region that our earliest settlements were founded? Here Muhlenberg and Boehm first gathered the Lutherans and Reformed for worship; here Menonites and Dunkards — though not as numerous as in the western region which they termed “Conestoga” — founded important settlements; here the Schwenkfelders, driven from Silesia by Austrian persecution, found after many wanderings a beautiful home. There is no part of the country which contains so many memorials of Pennsylvania-German history. At the Trappe Henry Melchior Muhlenberg lies buried; at New Goshenhoppen rests George Michael Weiss, and at Methatchen is the grave of Christopher Sauer. Everywhere, in all this region, we

are on historic ground, and we cannot help feeling that it is good to be here. When we leave this beautiful city we shall, I trust, bear to our scattered homes a precious store of recollections, both of ancient history and of present hospitality.

Every association to command respect must be ready to answer the question addressed to the ancient prophet: "What doest thou here?" Unless we can show that we stand upon solid ground — that there is a substantial reason for our existence — we can have no claim upon your sympathy or coöperation. We must establish our *raison d'être* before we can refer with confidence to our purposes and work. To express ourselves in German fashion we need the *Realgeschichte* before we can have the *Culturgeschichte*; we must relate certain facts which authenticate our position before we trace the development of our Pennsylvania-German domestic and social life.

That the Germanic races occupy the foremost position in modern history has never been doubted by those who have given their attention to the subject. In their very nature there is a migratory element which drives them to distant lands to become the pioneers of culture. When at the beginning of the Middle Ages history first lifts the veil, we behold Teutonic tribes moving hither and thither throughout the length and breadth of Europe. We see the Suevi coming from the East and, according to the legend, dividing in the center of Germany, one part occupying Sweden and the other Suabia and Switzerland, each preserving the title of the tribe in varying forms in the names of these respective countries. A little later we behold the Goths marching southward along the Rhine, until the Alps rise up to bar their way; and they too divide — one grand division to occupy the valley of the Danube, the other to

cross the land of Gaul and to establish the Visigothic Kingdom in Spain. Once more the shuttle flies westward and Clovis and his Franks establish a mighty empire. Finally, Karl the Great bears northward the thread with which he binds the Saxons; and thus the warp and woof of Germany are laid. With Karl—whom the French have called Charlemagne—the Germans ceased to consist of nomadic tribes, but their fondness for wandering continued. All through the Middle Ages there was not a great enterprise undertaken, there was not a single battle, in which the Germans failed to have a part.

If the Scandinavian legend is true—and we see no reason to doubt it—not two centuries from the epoch of Charlemagne had elapsed when the Northmen—themselves a Teutonic race—visited for the first time the coast of North America. “One day, while they lingered along the shore,” says the ancient saga, “one of the sailors, a German named Tyrker, wandered into the forest. When at last they found him he was dancing and singing for joy; then he came to them with a great bunch of grapes in his hand and said, ‘See, grapes are growing here as in my fatherland!’” Then they called the country Vineland. “An auspicious prophecy,” says Löher, “of the time—and with him thirst may have been the father of the thought—when the Germans should glorify the forests of America with wine and song.”

That the actual discovery of America was due to the expeditions of maritime nations we cheerfully concede, but the scientific studies which rendered such expeditions possible were chiefly Germanic. “Columbus,” says Riccioli, “would hardly have ventured on his voyage if Martin Behaim, the geographer of Nuremberg, had not shown him the way.” In the volumes published by this society

we have representations of the maps drawn by the Germans, and may read at length how Hylacomilus, or Waldseemüller, named the new-found continent. In all history there are no more fascinating pages than those which tell us of the achievements of German soldiers of fortune in Spanish lands. Unfortunately for historic purposes many of these heroes translated their names into the language of the country; but such men as Sebastian Rentz, Ambrosius Dalfinger and Philip von Hutten still hold a brilliant place in the history of South America. In Venezuela Bartholomew Welser, a simple Augsburg merchant, was for thirty years an absolute ruler, and it was the German house of Fugger that founded Buenos Ayres. Though their glory was short-lived and their language soon disappeared, "the German Communities," says a Spanish author, "became centres of light and culture." The first book printed in America, we know, issued in 1544 from the press of a German, Martin Kronberger, in the City of Mexico.

To rehearse these facts in this presence would be inexcusable if they were not so generally ignored by our foremost historians. How any one can in these days undertake to write our history without recognizing the works of Teutonic explorers, or the subsequent importance of the German element in the formation of our nationality is beyond our comprehension — the fact is in itself a proof of superficiality. How can any one relate the history of the Hudson's Bay Company without referring to its founder, Prince Rupert of the Palatinate? Who can minutely tell the story of America and at the same time ignore John Lederer, the explorer of the South West, and Ludwig Hennepin who traced the windings of the Mississippi, and Eusebius Francis Kino (properly Kühn), the discoverer, and explorer of Lower California and Arizona? In due

time the brilliant pioneers were succeeded by the toiling masses. They came in companies, but there was none to guide them. Refugees from a desolated fatherland—deserted by their natural leaders, received in this country with suspicion and tolerated barely for brawn and not for brain—this is surely the saddest of national migrations. Circling round and round, like swarms of bees without a queen, clinging here and there to some projecting point, only to be driven asunder and scattered through the wilderness. In our published volumes we may read how they starved at Coted'or and died of yellow fever at Biloxi; how at New Berne, in North Carolina, and at Broad Bay, in Maine, they were murdered by the Indians; how in New York they were oppressed and defrauded until the boldest of their number plunged into the wilderness and through unnumbered difficulties and dangers made their way along the Susquehanna until they reached a land where their brethren had already begun to assemble; and there as Whittier says, they once more sang "On the Banks of Swatara the songs of the Rhine."

It was in Pennsylvania that the greatest swarm of German immigration finally settled. A few Germans had indeed been here since the founding of the earliest colony. Peter Minuit, who brought the first Swedish ships—the *Bird Griffin* and the *Key of Calmar*—to Delaware Bay in 1638, was a native of the German city of Wesel; Governor Printz was a German nobleman, and when Governor Rysingh surrendered the Swedish colony to Peter Stuyvesant the terms of surrender were written in the German language. It is, however, to the invitation of William Penn that we generally trace the beginnings of the German settlement in Pennsylvania. He spoke the German language well, and three times he visited the fatherland. He

knew the people and cordially bade them welcome to his forest province.

To relate the history of the German settlement of Pennsylvania is beyond our present purpose. It has furnished material for many volumes and greater and more comprehensive works must still be written. Much of the story is lost, but by earnest labor much can be regained. It has, at any rate, been made plain that the pioneers were much more intelligent than their English cotemporaries supposed them to be. At the very time when letters were written to England describing the Germans as "so profoundly ignorant as to be unable to speak the English language," and as "fast becoming like unto wood-born savages," almost every German church in the province sustained a flourishing parochial school, and Christopher Sauer was conducting at Germantown a German publishing house which was by far the largest and most successful in the American colonies.

In considering the history of the Germans in America we are not surprised that in literature and art they have accomplished little; we are rather astonished that, notwithstanding their isolation and the difficulty of acquiring a new language, they should have been able to do so much.

Is there a branch of the church, a department of science, a section of the civil or military service, in which the Pennsylvania-German has failed to leave his mark? In the military service of the United States the seven German general officers of the Revolution, according to Rosen-garten, simply led the way for nearly three hundred subordinate officers and successors. Of the Governors of Pennsylvania since the Revolution nine have been German in the direct line of descent and several others have been Germans on the mother's side. In theology there is such

a galaxy of shining names that we cannot venture to enumerate them. "Welch reicher Himmel, Stern an Stern, Wer kennet ihre Namen." In science the names of Muhlenberg, Melsheimer, Gross, Leidy, Haldeman and Pepper are surely sufficiently familiar.

"Write the biographies of your great men, ye silent, backward Germans," wrote the great Herder, a century ago. "In this respect other nations are far in advance of you. They elevate their heroes to the clouds on the pinions of swans and eagles; ye suffer them to perish in the dust. The English, French and Italians are vastly more independent; they form their own judgments and are not afraid of the judgments of others. The consciousness that they have a fatherland gives them the courage which we lack." In its humble way and at a great distance the Pennsylvania-German Society is laboring in the direction indicated by the great philosopher. Like painters laboring to complete a gallery — like sculptors toiling over the insensate marble — we are striving to recall the heroes of the past and to present them for the imitation of a rising generation. If we gladly record the names of our national heroes upon the roll of honor, should we hesitate to perform a similar service for the most eminent of our own immediate people? There are many of them, and if time and strength are given, we hope to place a crown of laurel on every honored brow.

Concerning the important part taken by the Germans in the American Revolution George Bancroft has written: "Neither they nor their descendants have laid claim to all the praise that was their due." He might have added that there has never been a people which has been so grossly misrepresented. To add illustrations would be useless — are we not painfully aware that our people have been de-

scribed as exceptionally ignorant; that our speech has been called a jargon and our manners depicted as almost aboriginal? In pretentious works of literature our churches have been misrepresented; our colleges ignored; and we have been refused the page which we might modestly have claimed. Is this as it should be? It may be our duty to bear oppression, but we can hardly be expected to endure it without a protest.

It has been said that the Germans of Pennsylvania are themselves to blame for many of the misrepresentations of which they complain, and to a certain extent we reluctantly plead guilty to the impeachment. When our fathers arrived in this country they found that earlier settlers had chosen land that was easily cleared, and it became necessary to attack the forests that occupied the interior of the country. The result proved that the soil which had sustained great trees was best suited to agricultural purposes; but who can form an adequate idea of the toil and privation which the task of clearing it involved? For years they dwelt in comparative solitude. Separated from the educational influences of the fatherland, and generally unable to speak the language of their rulers, it is perhaps not surprising that their intellectual progress was slow, though there were among them at all times some men of intelligence and influence. In their isolated position, we know some of their national weaknesses became intensified. Conrad Weiser quoted scripture and told them they were "a perverse and stiff-necked generation." Delighting in their new-found personal liberty, they were ready to suspect everybody — even their own pastors — of a design to take it from them. Divided into many sects and cherishing many antiquated prejudices, concerted action in their own behalf appeared to be impossible, and their early at-



PHOTO. BY GEORGE WOLF, LANCASTER, PA.

AN OLD PENNSYLVANIA FORCE MILL.

LANCASTER COUNTY ABOUT HALF A MILE FROM PERCHTOWN. EDGE TOOLS ARE STILL MADE HERE.

tempts to establish literary institutions were consequently unsuccessful. With the change of language in the schools the old sources of knowledge dried up before new fountains had been properly opened. Men became *adscriptus glæbæ* — they entertained no higher ideals than those which the farm produced. Individualism became everywhere apparent in domestic and social life. Families cared little for their forefathers and old traditions were forgotten. There was little of the pride of race which characterizes the people of many other localities. An Irish boy who had entered college received a letter, enclosing a bank note, to this effect: "Tim, you are only my second cousin and I never saw you, but you are trying to do credit to the family and I owe you \$5 for that." Could a Pennsylvania-German boy by any possibility have received such a letter, at any rate a few years ago? Would he not rather, on returning home in vacation, have found averted faces among his earlier companions, and if he had listened closely he might have heard it whispered that the young cockerel was getting proud and needed to have his comb cut.

At one time some of us believed that German was the finest language in the world, and that it was difficult if not impossible to express profound thought in any other. We were no doubt mistaken, but I should rather err in that way than to follow the example of those who treat the mother tongue with contempt and prefer that their ancestry should be forgotten, as though it were discreditable to be of the same blood with Luther and Spener, with Schiller and Goethe, with Kant and Hegel, Mozart and Wagner, Blücher and Bismarck. When will our people learn to appreciate the fact that if they would be esteemed they must esteem themselves. "Self-love is not so vile a sin as self-forgetting."

That there is here a weakness in the Pennsylvania-German character has long been acknowledged, and many of our foremost men have expressed themselves on the subject in unmistakable language. In such a matter, however, individuals can accomplish little. Organization is a necessity; and it was therefore an important step in advance when, on the 15th of April, 1891, representative men assembled in Lancaster to organize the Pennsylvania-German Society. To trace the history of this association is not our present intention. Like every other human institution it has had its trials and triumphs — its periods of depression and of thanksgiving — but altogether our course has been upward and onward, and on this day, when we regard the work which has already been accomplished, our hearts are full of rejoicing. True it is that at our annual meetings the element of mourning is rarely lacking. The founders of the society are rapidly passing away, and almost every year we are called upon to note the departure of one or more of our most distinguished pioneers. On this occasion it becomes my duty especially to commemorate the decease of the Rev. George C. Heckman, D.D., LL.D., which occurred on the 5th of March of the present year. Dr. Heckman, it will be remembered, was elected President of this Society at York, in 1893, and occupied the chair at the meeting of the succeeding year. Though it was not my privilege to be intimately acquainted with my eminent predecessor, I do not hesitate to say that as a pulpit orator, and especially as a master of English style, he stood in the foremost rank, and, surely, he was “a pastor after God’s own heart.” To his honor be it said that — though laboring chiefly among a people with other traditions — he was profoundly interested in the work of this Society and never wavered in his affection for the place that gave him birth.

In ancient times, when an eminent Jewish rabbi handed over to a brilliant successor his share in the composition of the Talmud, he said to him: "It is not incumbent on thee to finish the work." These words we may regard as spoken to ourselves. Much has been spoken and written, but our work is barely begun. Thus far our historic labors have been mostly general—it was all that we could do to give a general idea of its extent and richness. We have opened the way for the specialists, and of their gleanings there will be no end. The records of ancient churches which we are publishing may not be interesting to the general reader, but for the genealogist of the future they will provide innumerable delights. All over the State old families are holding reunions. These are delightful occasions, when good people spend a few hours in recalling traditions and reviving ancient affection. As years pass the love of family history will grow, and the people will not be satisfied unless they know all that is to be known concerning the sources of their domestic life. Here the genealogist becomes a necessity, but whither shall he turn for the materials of his work? With unremitting patience he will search the records which antiquarians have published—and how will he revel in their revelations!

Is not the annual convention of the Pennsylvania-German Society in a broader and more comprehensive sense a family reunion? We have been scattered far and wide, and have traveled on divergent paths. Old forms of speech are passing away, and we could not revive them if we would. Many of us can trace our descent to several nationalities; but, strange to say, the German line appears to be the strongest. Why is it that we cling so closely to the ancient stem? Is it not because there is among us an element which may best be expressed by the German word

Gemüthlichkeit which involves a heartfelt recognition of the brotherhood of man, and manifests itself in a certain geniality that renders life more pleasant? If this emotion — for whose name we cannot find an English equivalent — should result in smoothing down some of the angularities of our national character, will it not make us better citizens and better friends? It has been said that in this society the various elements of the Anglo-German life in Pennsylvania have been more closely united than ever before. May we not hope for results that will far exceed our present anticipations when we come to a fuller recognition of a common origin and a common aim?

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

Following the President's address the Secretary, H. M. Richards made his report for the year just ended.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY.

Gentlemen: Circumstances have prevented me from drawing up such a full report of our operations for the year as I might like, or you may desire, and yet all I could have said would only have tended to intensify my simple statement that the prosperity of our earlier years has continued with us during the past twelve months. Our progress has been constantly onward as well as upward to a higher plane of excellence and renown. The character of our membership, and great value of our publications, have given the Society a most enviable standing and world-wide reputation. Volume XI., though tardy in making its appearance, is now in your hands and speaks for itself.

Our membership has increased to the encouraging net total of 425. The additions to our ranks, for the year,

foot up 34, and we have been called upon to mourn the loss, by death, of 7, many of whom were amongst our most active members, and all of whom will be greatly missed by those of us who have been left behind to complete the tasks still lying unfinished in our hands.

Your executive committee has been most faithful in attendance at its various meetings, and has always given the welfare of the Society its most earnest thought. The result is sufficient evidence of the faithful performance of duty. While much and varied action has been taken, that of general interest may be summed up in the following items:

1. Dr. Charles F. Himes, of Carlisle, Pa., our late president, was appointed a committee to correspond with those members who were interested in photography, for the purpose of securing views of places, persons, buildings, etc., of general and historic interest from a Pennsylvania-German standpoint, thus perpetuating the same.

2. A beautiful Certificate of Membership has been issued suitable for framing, to which all members are entitled who have been in good standing for a continuous period of five years. The cost of the same is but \$1.50 and can be obtained through the Secretary.

In congratulating you upon the great prosperity now enjoyed by our Society, your Secretary and committee pray that the members will continue to extend to them their hearty coöperation, which alone can assure our future welfare.

Respectfully,

H. M. M. RICHARDS,

Secretary.

DONATIONS RECEIVED BY THE SOCIETY.

Life of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, D.D., by William H. Frick, D.D.

Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, Vol. III., No. 1, by the Society.

Pronouncing Gazetteer and Geographical Dictionary of the Philippine Islands, by its author, De B. Randolph Klein, Esq.

Collections of State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Vol. XVI., by the Society.

The Iowa Journal of History and Politics for January, 1903, by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

Manual of the Pennsylvania Society for 1903, by the Society.

Year Book of the Pennsylvania Society for 1903, by the Society.

Life of Captain Gustavus Conyngham, by the Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the Revolution.

Proceedings State Historical Society of Wisconsin at its fiftieth annual meeting, by the Society.

Proceedings Pennsylvania Society, Sons of the Revolution, 1902-03, by the Society.

TREASURER'S REPORT, PENNSYLVANIA-GERMAN SOCIETY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING OCTOBER 1, 1902.

During the current year there was received :

From Dues	\$ 955.00
From Sale of Books.....	231.00
From Certificates.....	6.00
Making a Total of.....	\$1192.00
October 26, 1901, General Fund.....	1199.21
Life Membership Fund.....	250.00
Total Debit.....	\$2641.21
Credit by Vouchers as Per Book.....	\$1758.72
Leaving a Balance of.....	882.49

General Fund.....	\$ 632.49
Life Membership	250.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 882.49

All of which is respectfully submitted by

JULIUS F. SACHSE,
Treasurer.

NORRISTOWN, PA., Oct. 3, '02.

The undersigned Auditing Committee has audited the accounts of the Treasurer and find it correct, as stated. In the opinion of the Committee the Treasurer is not properly protected in the payment of bills, in view of which we recommend that vouchers for the payments of all bills be issued by the Secretary and countersigned by the Chairman of the Executive Committee.

S. P. HEILMAN,
J. W. EARLY,
IRA V. SCHOCK.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The election of officers for the ensuing year then took place with the following result: President, Rev. Joseph A. Seiss, D.D., LL.D., L.H.D., of Philadelphia, Pa.; Vice-presidents, Hon. Irving P. Wanger, of Norristown, Pa., Rev. Paul de Schweinitz, of Bethlehem, Pa.; Treasurer, Julius F. Sachse, Litt. D., of Philadelphia, Pa.; Executive Committee, Thos. C. Zimmerman, of Reading, Pa., Abraham S. Schropp, of Bethlehem, Pa.

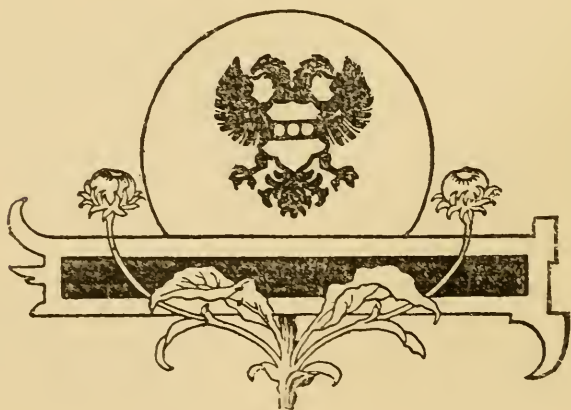
The morning session was concluded by an able paper on "Early Educational Problems affecting the Pennsylvania Germans," by Prof. M. G. Brumbaugh, Ph.D., of Philadelphia, Pa.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session was opened with a most interesting paper on "Decorated Stove Plates of the Pennsylvania Germans," by Prof. Henry C. Mercer, of Doylestown, Pa., after which a most pleasant excursion was made to Ursinus College, at Collegeville, and to the old, historic Augustus Lutheran Church, at Trappe, with its Muhlenberg graves.

THE EVENING.

A most successful and enjoyable gathering was brought to a happy conclusion by an informal reception from 7.30 to 8.30 P. M., followed by the Annual Banquet, of which a large number of ladies and gentlemen partook. The music was furnished by the Norristown Mænnerchor, and the following gentlemen responded to toasts: Hon. Henry Houck, of Lebanon, on "Pennsylvania-German Humor"; Hon. G. A. Endlich, of Reading, on "The Language of the Pennsylvania Dutch"; Albrecht Kneule, Esq., on "The Pride of Pennsylvania Germans." Hon. Irving P. Wanger, of Norristown, presided as Toastmaster.



In Memoriam.

Samuel Straub Yohe.

Samuel Straub Yohe was born December 1, 1851, in Bethlehem, Pa. He was son of Caleb Yohe, b. August 7, 1814, d. November, 1892, and wife Mary M. Yohe, née Straub, b. June 13, 1807, d. January, 1885 (dau. Christian Straub, b. November 7, 1777, d. January 23, 1856, and wife Regina ———, b. May 19, 1782, d. April 17, 1858); son of Jacob Yohe, b. (Berks Co.) June 3, 1788, d. September 18, 1869, m. Catharine, née Harman, b. May 17, 1790, d. March 17, 1864 (dau. Jacob Harman and wife Elizabeth, née Leisenring); son of Peter Yoh. His ancestors, on both sides, came from Germany.

His early education was obtained at Nazareth Hall, and later in Lehigh University. In 1872 he removed to Easton, Pa., where he entered the law office of the late Edward J. Fox. He became, eventually, Prothonotary, and served as a Court House official until the day of his death.

Mr. Yohe was especially prominent in the Masonic fraternity. He was initiated in Dallas Lodge, No. 396, F. and A. M., of Easton, Pa., on June 9, 1874, crafted September 1, 1874, and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, October 13, 1874. Passed to the chair April 20, 1875. He served as Junior Warden during the years 1876 and 1892; Senior Warden, 1877 and 1893; Worshipful Master, 1878 and 1894. He received in Easton Chapter, No. 173, Royal Arch Masons, the honorary degree of a Mark Master Mason, June 21, 1875; was received and accepted a Most Excellent Master and exalted to the supreme degree of a Royal Arch Mason, July 26, 1875.

Served as Scribe during 1878, as King 1879 and M. E. High Priest 1880. He received in Bethlehem Council, No. 36, Royal and Select Masters, the Royal and Super Excellent Master's Degrees, April 8, 1880, and the Select Master's, December 2, 1880; was admitted a member of Pomp Council, No. 20, of Easton, Pa., July 11, 1881. Served as Thrice Illustrious Grand Master, 1881, was elected and served as Most Puissant Grand Master of the Grand Council of Pennsylvania in 1898. In Hugh de Payens Commandery, No. 19, Knights Templar, of Easton, Pa., he received the Illustrious Order of the Red Cross, December 8, 1879; was dubbed and created a Knight Templar and was instructed in the secret of Malta December 29, 1879. He served as Captain General during Templar year 1881-2; as Generalissimo 1882-3; as Eminent Commander 1883-4; at Erie, Pa., May 27, 1891, elected Grand Junior Warden of the Grand Commandery of Pennsylvania, and, at Scranton, May 27, 1896, Right Eminent Grand Commander. He was a Representative to the Grand Lodge, Grand Chapter and Grand Council of Pennsylvania at the time of his death, and was buried with full Templar honors in Easton Cemetery on October 24, 1902.

His death resulted from apoplexy on the morning of October 21, 1902, his wife having died a few months previously. He is survived by a daughter, Edith, the wife of Mr. Xavier Veile, of Easton, Pa.

Mr. Yohe was elected to membership in the Pennsylvania-German Society on October 25, 1900.

H. M. M. R.



Hon. William Beidelman.

Hon. William Beidelman was born in Lower Saucon Township of Northampton County, Pa., on January 17, 1840. He was the son of Daniel Beidelman, who was son of Abraham Beidelman, who was son of Samuel Beidelman, who was son of Elias Beidelman, who came to America in 1730.

Soon after his birth the family removed to Williams Township, where his boyhood days were spent upon his father's farm. After attending the township schools his education was continued at the New York Conference Seminary and the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Having, later, read law for some time with the late E. J. Fox, he went to the law department of the University of Albany, N. Y., from which he graduated, and, in 1868 was admitted a member of the Northampton County Bar, where he continued his practice until the time of his death.

During the Civil War Mr. Beidelman enlisted in the 153d Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteers, where he attained the rank of Lieutenant, and with which he served in the Army of the Potomac from October, 1862, to July 4, 1863, participating in the battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

In politics he was a Democrat. He was elected District Attorney of Northampton County in 1871, and represented this district in the State Senate from 1878 until 1882. From 1885 to 1887 he was Solicitor of Easton, then a borough. In 1890, after Easton had become a city, he was elected its Mayor and served in that capacity until April, 1894.

Besides various interesting historical letters, which appeared in local publications, Mr. Beidelman was the author of the "Story of the Pennsylvania Germans," most of the data for which book was collected by himself personally during various trips to Germany and other countries made for that special purpose.

He was a member of the N. Y. Geographical Society, the Jacksonian Democratic Association, Lafayette Post, 217, G. A. R., Dallas Lodge, 396, F. and A. M., and Hugh de Payens Commandery, 19, Knights Templar. He was admitted to membership in the Pennsylvania-German Society on July 8, 1891.

His death, on February 1, 1903, resulted from pneumonia after a brief illness of but a few days.

H. M. M. R.



**Hon. George Frederick William Holls,
D.C.L.**

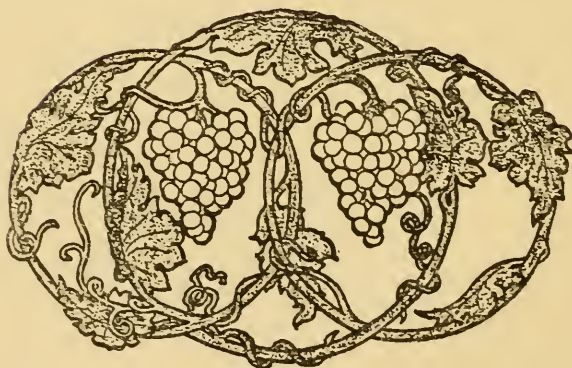
Hon. George Frederick William Holls, D.C.L., was born July 1, 1857, in Zelienople, Butler County, Pennsylvania. He was son of Rev. George Charles Holls, b. February 26, 1824, in Darmstadt, Germany, d. August 12, 1886, widely known as a philanthropist and educator, and Louise Burx, b. December 6, 1816, d. January 6, 1887, (dau. Gottlieb Burx, b. July 6, 1769, d. December 8, 1817), son of Ludwig Holls, b. January 18, 1796, d. October 26, 1832, son of Charles Heinrich Holls. His parents came to Pennsylvania, September 20, 1852, from Darmstadt, Germany. All his paternal ancestors, for three hundred years, were theologians or soldiers, mostly the former. His maternal grandfather was a famous artist in engraving (copper-plate and lithography). His other maternal ancestors were mostly of the military.

Dr. Holls was graduated from Columbia College in 1878, studied also at the University at Leipsic, and became a practising lawyer in New York City. He was a delegate-at-large to the New York Constitutional Convention in 1894, a member of the Peace Conference at The Hague from the United States in 1898, being Secretary of the American Delegation, and, more recently, a member of the International Court. He was the author of a number of books, including a history of the Peace Conference at The Hague and numerous lectures and essays on political subjects. The degree of D.C.L., was conferred upon him by the University of Leipsic.

His sudden death, from heart failure, occurred, on the morning of July 23, 1903, at his home at Yonkers, N. Y.

He was elected to Associate Membership in the Pennsylvania-German Society on April 12, 1898, and was continually interested in its work.

H. M. M. R.



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